

**AIRTIME:** In 15 years of service, DHART (the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advanced Response Team) has done 10,631 helicopter transports and 4,835 ground transports. About 80% are hospital-to-hospital, and the rest are “scene calls.”



## Stimulus dollars prompt rise in research income

**W**ith the help of stimulus dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), DMS garnered 4% more grant and contract income in the 2009 than the 2008 fiscal year. DMS researchers brought in \$115.6 million in FY09, up from FY08's \$111.2 million.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides the majority of DMS

research income. But annual NIH bud-

get increases have “ranged from appalling to merely dismal over the past few years,” says Jennifer Friend, the director of research support services at DMS. So when extra research money was offered as part of the federal stimulus package, “the response not just here but overall was huge,” she explains.

**Fund:** The NIH announced it would use stimulus money to fund about 200 special “Chal-

lenge Grants” in particular research areas, and approximately 20,000 applications were submitted nationwide. The funding requested by DMS investigators shot up 49%.

**Total:** The amount of stimulus money DMS actually received in FY09—\$2.9 million—is small relative to the Medical School's overall research portfolio. But Friend thinks it was the main reason that grant and contract income rose, since NIH funding has stagnated in recent years. Falling NIH funding drove FY08's 11% drop in research income from FY07's total.

In FY09, some departments secured significantly more funding than in the previous fiscal year. The Department of Physiology received \$10.2 million, an increase of 74%. And the Departments of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, Psychiatry, and Surgery each added more than \$1 million to their research totals.

**Sources:** The NIH and other agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services provided about 66% of DMS's research funding. State and local governments accounted for about 11%. Other sources included foundations (7%) and corporations (5%).

Some of the ARRA money was used to fund proposals submitted before Congress passed the stimulus package in February 2009. In January, physiologist Allan Gulledge, Ph.D., had

asked for a specialized microscope that enables researchers to peer deep into live tissue. ARRA money later paid for the microscopy facility, which will be shared by DMS, Dartmouth College, and Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering.

Many ARRA awards will be reflected in FY10's research portfolio. (DMS has received over \$32 million in ARRA funds all told.) For example, physiologist Bruce Stanton, Ph.D., is the principal investigator on three such grants totaling \$2.5 million. Most of the money was designated for hiring additional people to expand two initiatives—Dartmouth's Toxic Metals Research Program and collaborative Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in lung biology.

**Jobs:** While the stimulus dollars are helping to preserve research jobs—while keeping important work under way—Stanton is worried that securing funding may be “even harder after the ARRA money dries up.”

Friend observes that the call to increase federal support for research has recently shifted focus. Science advocacy groups are starting to frame federal research funding as an economic issue, she says. “Federal funds create good, paying jobs . . . in pretty much every congressional district in the country,” she notes.

It would be nice if the government pumped more money into research “because it's the right thing to do,” she adds. But it doesn't hurt to also have members of Congress support research to create jobs for voters.

KATHERINE VONDERHAAR

## Worthy of note: Honors, awards, appointments, etc.

**Jim Yong Kim, M.D., Ph.D.,** president of Dartmouth College, was named to the federal govern-



ment's Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Kim cofounded the internationally recognized nonprof-

it organization Partners in Health, which has brought treatment for AIDS and other diseases to impoverished communities worldwide. He is also former director of the World Health Organization's Department of HIV/AIDS. In that role, he led the 3 by 5 Initiative, which sought to treat 3 million new HIV/AIDS patients in developing countries with antiretroviral drugs by 2005; launched in September 2003, the ambitious program reached its goal in 2007. The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS provides advice and recommendations on domestic and global HIV/AIDS policy issues.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science



recently elevated two members of the Dartmouth faculty to the rank of fellow.

**Jay Dunlap, Ph.D.,** a professor and

chair of the Department of *continued on page 54*



JON OLBERT FOR

**Physiologist Bruce Stanton heads three large projects that got stimulus grants.**



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## Worthy of note

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Genetics, was recognized for his contributions to the genomics of the fungus *Neurospora*, in particular the genes involved in



the circadian system that controls cellular behavior. And **Carol Folt**, Ph.D., a professor of biology as well as the acting provost and the dean of the faculty of Dartmouth College, was honored for her limnological work on salmon restoration and conservation and on metal toxicity in aquatic ecosystems, and also for advancing scientific education and literacy in her role as dean of the faculty.

**Gregory Holmes**, M.D., a professor of medicine and chair of the Department of Neurology,



was named the 2009 Candlelight Honoree of the Epilepsy Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He was recognized for his commitment to the epilepsy community, especially his leadership at

Camp Wee Kan Tu in Massachusetts, a camp for children with epilepsy.

**Duane Compton**, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, won first prize in the public outreach category in Cell-



dance 2009, an annual still and film image competition sponsored by the American Society for Cell Biology. The contest recognizes work that is “both scientifically important

and visually engaging.” Compton’s submission was a short, humorous video titled “Down the Impact Factor Ladder.”

**Thomas Colacchio**, M.D., president of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health and a professor of surgery; and **Nancy Formella**, M.S.N., president of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, were highlighted by *Business NH Magazine* as being among “New Hampshire’s Most Powerful” business leaders.

**Thomas Ward**, M.D., a professor of neurology, was named editor-in-chief of the journal *Headache Currents*, which is published by the American Headache Society.

**Louis Kazal**, M.D., an associate professor of

community and family medicine, was elected president of the New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians.

The Dartmouth Medical School chapter of Physicians for Human Rights received Dartmouth College's Martin Luther King Social Justice Award for a student group. The award was accepted by the leaders of the chapter, **Katherine Ratzan**, a fourth-year M.D. student, and **Alexandra Coria**, a second-year M.D. student. (In addition, Dr. **Peter Kilmarx**, DMS '90, received the College's social justice award for lifetime achievement; he is chief of the Epidemiology Branch of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.)

**Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center** received the American Stroke Association's Get With the Guidelines Stroke Silver Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes the institution's success at ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations.

**Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center** also received the Department of Health and Human Services' Organ Donation Medal of Honor for the fifth year in a row; the award is presented by the New England Organ Bank.

**Errata:** In our Winter 2009 issue, an article in the Vital Signs section titled "A high-tech solution to drug counterfeiting" stated that "Sproxil was named Technology Pioneer for 2009 by the World Economic Forum." It was actually the concept on which Sproxil is based that was honored; the company went by a different name at that time.

In the Transforming Medicine section of the Winter issue, the photograph on the bottom of page 50 of Joan "Posey" Fowler and Carolyn "Kayo" Sands was incorrectly credited to Mark Washburn. The photo was taken by Jon Gilbert Fox.

And the same issue's "Media Mentions" section includes a photo of Dr. **Robert Cantu**, an assistant professor of orthopaedics at DMS. But it is not he who was quoted in the *New York Times* article about sports-related concussions. Rather, the person quoted was the orthopaedist's father, also named Dr. Robert Cantu; he is a clinical professor of neurosurgery at Boston University. We really aren't . . . er, boneheads—the misidentification was based on erroneous information supplied to the magazine. But we always regret errors, whatever their cause. ■

## Through the clouds

*continued from page 47*

combination," she explains. Lindberg has been at DHMC for five years and was previously the nurse manager of the Dartmouth-affiliated Family Medicine Institute in Augusta, Maine.

"I have enjoyed writing poetry since I was in grade school," she says. She sometimes writes free verse but sometimes works in more structured forms, using rhyme and meter. She admits, however, that she is "not disciplined" in her writing. "Writing is a creative outlet. It helps me tap into some of the less right-brain, type-A-personality" aspects of herself, she says.

"I . . . remember very clearly the circumstance that prompted me to write" the poem published here, Lindberg explains. It arose from an experience she had when she lived in Augusta, where she also served as a member of the board of directors for a volunteer hospice organization.

One of her fellow board members was the pastor of a local Baptist church; when his wife died, Lindberg attended the funeral.

The church was packed, she recalls, and "the outpouring of sentiment was palpable." Lindberg had only met the pastor's wife briefly, but she found herself unusually moved as the service brought home to her the deep sense of loss that the woman's husband must be feeling.

And that made her realize, she says, how often, even after a devastating loss, people "pretend everything is just fine."

Lindberg left the service and "drove home with a feeling of hollowness." An image came to her of a long, empty corridor, she says, while the words of the poem "almost formed themselves in my mind without putting pen to paper."

But no matter how easily the first draft of a poem flows, Lindberg rereads and revises her work numerous times. "I let it sit" for a while, she says, then "go through version after version of rewriting." There usually "comes a time when I think I'm satisfied with it," she adds. But even so, whenever she looks back on a poem, she "can always find something I want to change." ■

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